REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of this application.

Cosmetic Amendments to the Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 15, and 16. These claims have been amended in accordance with the suggestion made by the Office Action to change "conFIG.d" to "configured." The undersigned first noticed this typographical error when preparing this response. It is believed that the original typo was introduced when the undersigned performed a global search and replace of "fig" with "FIG." so that the figure descriptions (in the specification) were presented in that format. Unfortunately, and unbeknownst to the undersigned, the search and replace operation also impacted the claims. Therefore, the claims have been amended to correct this typographical error.

Discussion of Substantive Rejections

Turning now to the substantive rejections, the Office Action rejected all independent claims as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,304,173 (hereafter the '173 patent). Applicant has amended the independent claims to define a feature that clearly distinguishes the claimed embodiments over the cited art of record. In this regard, a feature of an embodiment of the present application is the cooperative relationship between the position sensor(s) and the servo motor(s) that control the direction of the camera, ***such that the image presented on the display effectively mimics that of a conventional rear-view mirror***. Regarding this feature, the specification describes the following:

> In the preferred embodiment, the servo system controls the angle or the direction of the camera 150 such that the direction of the camera 150 is

> substantially co-aligned with the direction 132 of the display 130. Advantageously, ***this provides the driver of the vehicle with a "look and feel" of the display that is consistent with the "look and feel" of a conventional rear-view mirror.*** In this regard, when a driver, using a conventional rear-view mirror, wants to view an area to the left of the area presently displayed in the rear-view mirror, the driver simply adjusts or angles the rear-view mirror to the left. Using a system of the present invention, a driver can achieve the same result by adjusting or angling the display 130 to the left. To facilitate this maneuverability of the display 130, the display may be mounted to the vehicle like a conventional rear-view mirror.

(*Emphasis added,* specification, p. 9, lines 3-12).

Accordingly, the independent claims of the present application have been amended to recite the following feature: "wherein the direction of the camera is controllably moved so that the visual image on the display is similar to that which would be seen in a conventional rear view mirror that is moved in the same position." The claims have been amended to recite that the image presented on the display is "similar" to that of a conventional rear view mirror (instead of identical) because there are certain obvious differences (e.g., no obstructions to the camera that may exist in a conventional vehicle). In this regard, the specification further describes:

> In practice, however, the camera and display system of the present invention provide much improved visibility over that provided through a conventional rear-view mirror. Specifically, the present invention allows a driver to angle the mirror upwardly or downwardly. In conventional vehicles, the roof and floor of the vehicle obstruct these vertically sweeping fields of view. However, and as illustrated in FIGS. 3B and 3C, the camera/display system of the present invention allows a driver to obtain and display these views unobstructedly. This is particularly advantageous when the driver is operating the vehicle in reverse, as the camera will provide drastically improved visibility for objects located to the immediate rear of the vehicle.

(specification, p. 9, lines 13-21).

The '173 patent provides no corresponding teaching. Col. 4, lines 34-65 describes the general operation of the system of the '173 patent. In this regard, the '173 patent describes:

> ...When the display 24 is in the first position, viewable from the driver seat 60, video switcher 84 sends the video signal selectively from the cameras 50, 116, or

117 to the display 24. If the display 24 is pivoted away from the driver in the first position, entertainment video may also be sent to the display 24. The initial position of the cameras 50, 116, 117 and the default or initial view provided to the display 24 when in the first position may be user-definable through software. The positioning circuitry 92 controls the motor 52 to angle the camera 50 to provide the distant view 54. When the gear input 90 indicates that the vehicle 22 is switched into reverse, the positioning circuitry 92 changes the angle of the camera 50 to provide the near view 56 so that the display 24 displays the immediately adjacent 6 to 10 feet rearward of the vehicle. ***Utilizing the user input control 78, the driver can override these options and cause the camera to switch to any of the three views 54, 56, 58. Using these controls 78, the driver can cause the positioning circuitry 92 to drive the motor 52 to move the camera 50 to provide a view of the rear seat 63 and/or 62 on the display 24***. This is useful for monitoring children and/or pets in the rear seats 62,63.

(*Emphasis added*, '173 patent col. 4, lines 35-56).

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the '173 patent describes multiple camera (cameras 50, 116, and 117), which are selectable for different purposes. More importantly, the '173 patent describes that the positioning circuitry for the cameras is controlled by user input control 78. As is illustrated in FIG. 1, these controls are provided on the dashboard of the automobile. Therefore, the '173 patent does not teach or disclose the coupling of the position of the display with the position or direction of the camera, such that "the direction of the camera is controllably moved so that the visual image on the display is similar to that which would be seen in a conventional rear view mirror that is moved in the same position," as is now specifically recited by independent claims 1 and 14.

Accordingly, as amended independent claims 1 and 14 clearly define over the cited art and these claims should now be allowed.

Dependent claims

Various rejections have also been made to the dependent claims. However, these rejections have been rendered moot by the amendments made to the independent claims.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this submission.

Respectfully Submitted,

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